

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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BETHALTO MAN SENTENCED FOR THREE BANK ROBBERIES

Edward E. McNally, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that **STEVEN P. WALTEMATE** was sentenced to 57 months in prison on Friday, February 10, 2006. **WALTEMATE**, age 44 of Bethalto, was sentenced in U.S. District Court in East St. Louis, Illinois, for three separate bank robberies: Commerce Bank in Florissant, Missouri, on November 22, 2004; Union Planters Bank in Alton, Illinois, on December 20, 2004; and U.S. Bank, also in Alton, on December 31, 2004.

WALTEMATE pled guilty to all three bank robberies on October 18, 2005. According to evidence presented in court, **WALTEMATE** received a total of \$6596.00 from the three robberies.

The investigation which resulted in **WALTEMATE'S** arrest and conviction was conducted by officers of the Alton Police Department, and by special agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in both St. Louis, Missouri and Fairview Heights, Illinois. The case was assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Robert L. Garrison.